

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY AF/C:EMARKS:JR

APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEELE

AF/C:TRBUCHANAN

S/S:SESTEINER

-----132107Z 059771 /66

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082972

EXDIS

FOL REPEAT RABAT 1943 ACTION SECSTATE ALGIERS

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PARIS PEKING TRIPOLI USUN DTD 11 APR.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1943

EXDIS

ALGIERS AND TUNIS FOR UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MO, CG

SUBJECT: KING HASSAN CONVOKES AMBASSADORS OF FIVE PERMANENT SECURITY

COUNCIL MEMBERS ON ZAIRE

1. ING HASSAN CONVOKED SOVIET, CHINESE, FRENCH AND
BRITISH AMBASSADORS AND MYSELF TO MARRAKECH ON SUNDAY,

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APRIL 10, FOR PRESENTATION OF MOROCCAN POSITION ON
DISPATCH OF MILITARY CONTINGENT TO ZAIRE. FONMIN LARAKI
ALSO ATTENDED. (PRESS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS PRESENT BRIEFLY
AT OUTSET OF MEETING, WHICH RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE
IN APRIL 11 PAPERS.) HIGHLIGHTS OF 40-MINUTE MEETING
FOLLOW:

A. KING WISHED US TO HEAR MOROCCAN REASONING DIRECTLY FROM HIM, IN ADDITION TO STATEMENTS ALREADY ISSUED BY GOM. FOLLOWING 1961 CASABLANCA CONFERENCE WHICH RESULTED IN CREATION OF OAU, FIRST PROBLEM NEW ORGANIZATION HAD HAD TO FACE WAS SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT IN CONGO. MOROCCO HAD PARTICIPATED IN RESTORING PEACE BY SENDING CONTINGENT AT THAT TIME. NEXT MAJOR PROBLEM BEFORE AFRICANS HAD BEEN ANGOLA, BUT LATTER COULD NOT BE COMPARED WITH CURRENT ZAIRE SITUATION. ANGOLA HAD BEEN INTERNAL STRUGGLE AMONG THREE INDIGENOUS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. IT HAD NOT BEEN MEMBER OF OAU, HAD NOT BEEN A RECOGNIZED STATE, AND THERE HAD BEEN NO REQUEST FOR OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE.

B. ZAIRE SITUATION WAS TOTALLY DIFFERENT. MOBUTU WAS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CHIEF OF STATE, ZAIRE HAD INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BORDERS, AND AGGRESSION WAS FROM OUTSIDE. FURTHERMORE, MOBUTU HAD ASKED FOR OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE OAU.

C. ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA HAD SEEN KING ON MARCH 25 WITH REQUEST FOR FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES. SUBSEQUENTLY, KING HAD RECEIVED PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MOBUTU ASKING FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE. KING HAD RESPONDED BY SENDING MILITARY TEAM TO EXAMINE SITUATION IN ZAIRE TO DETERMINE HOW MOROCCO MIGHT HELP. FOLLOWING RETURN OF TEAM, GOM HAD DECIDED, BECAUSE OF EXTREME SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM, TO SEND MILITARY CONTINGENT.

D. ALGERIA CAUSING DIFFICULTIES FOR ZAIRE, HAVING
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HALTED LONG-TERM PETROLEUM CONTRACT AND DEMANDED IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING BILL OF \$47 MILLION. ALGERIA PROBABLY RETALIATING FOR ZAIRE'S PRO-MOROCCAN STANCE ON SAHARA AT LAST SUMMER'S COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.

E. MOROCCAN CONTINGENT WOULD BE MADE UP ENTIRELY OF VOLUNTEERS. OUT OF FOUR THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS FROM THREE MILITARY UNITS, 1200 TROOPS WERE ACTUALLY BEING SENT. KING SAW ENTHUSIASM OF MILITARY AS CONFIRMING SIGN OF HIGH MOTIVATION, SIMILAR TO THAT DEMONSTRATED BY MOROCCAN FORCES IN 1973 MIDDLE EAST WAR AND LAST YEAR'S "GREEN MARCH" INTO SAHARA.

F. KING OFFERED HIS "MOST FORMAL ASSURANCES" THAT
(1) MOROCCAN FORCES WOULD NOT CROSS ZAIRE BORDERS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, EVEN IN PURSUIT OF AGGRESSORS, AND (2) NO MOROCCAN SOLDIER WOULD REMAIN IN ZAIRE AFTER TERMINATION OF MISSION.

G. REFERRING TO SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GREAT POWERS, KING ASKED FOR THEIR MODERATION, FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF MOROCCAN MOTIVES AND FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO REDUCE TENSIONS IN ZAIRE. IN INTEREST OF PEACE IN AREA AND AFRICAN SOLIDARITY, MOROCCO FELT HONOR BOUND UNDER OAU CHARTER TO HELP PRESERVE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MEMBER STATES. MOBUTU HAD ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE FRIEND OF MOROCCO. FURTHERMORE, INSTABILITY IN ZAIRE COULD HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE SUDAN, ANOTHER KEY STATE IN REGION, AND SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE DESTABILIZING EFFECT INVOLVING EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER MODERATE COUNTRIES WORKING TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

H. CONHESIVENESS OF OAU HAD BEEN DISRUPTED BY A FEW SMALL, RADICAL STATES. COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO WORK HARMONIOUSLY TOGETHER IN SUCH AN ORGANIZATION. PROBABLE
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EVOLUTION COULD WELL BE DEMISE OF OAU AS WE KNOW IT TO BE REPLACED BY MORE HOMOGENOUS REGIONAL GROUPINGS. LEADERS OF VIRTUALLY EVERY NEW INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATE HAD TAKEN POWER BY "HOLDUPS", AND THESE ECONOMICALLY POOR COUNTRIES HAD NO LEADERSHIP "ELITE". KING ADVISED GREAT POWERS AGAINST BECOMING TOO CLOSE TO THESE STATES, WHICH WILL ONLY BE FINANCIAL BURDENS AND NEVER RELIABLE FRIENDS. WITH ITS LONG-STANDING TRADITIONS, WELL-DEVELOPED LEADERSHIP, CURRENT PROGRESS TOWARD PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND IMPRESSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MOROCCO DID NOT POSE A PROBLEM FOR SUCH RELATIONSHIPS.

I KING BRIEFLY DISMISSED CHARGES OF MOROCCAN INVOLVEMENT IN RECENT BENIN COUP ATTEMPT, ALONG LINES OF HIS MARCH 14 TALK WITH ME (RABAT 1439).

2. COMMENT: KING'S PRESENTATION FOLLOWS MOROCCAN NOTIFICATION OF OAU, AND APPEARS TO BE PART OF A CONCERTED MOROCCAN DIPLOMATIC AND INFORMATION CAMPAIGN. KING DID NOT REQUEST ANY SPECIFIC SUPPORT FROM THE FIVE POWERS, BUT ONLY THEIR "UNDERSTANDING" AND EFFORTS TO CALM SITUATION. IN CONSIDERING ATTITUDE TOWARDS ZAIRE SITUATION OF THOSE PRESENT, FRENCH AMBASSADOR RAIMOND AND I CAME AWAY WITH IMPRESSION THAT FOUR OF US WERE USED AS CONVENIENT PROPS FOR A DEMARCHE MEANT PRIMARILY FOR ONE REPRESENTATIVE -- THE SOVIET.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE082972
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EMARKS:JR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770128-0868
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770461/aaaacalf.tel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5d4eb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2818283
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KING HASSAN CONVOKES AMBASSADORS OF FIVE PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ON ZAIRE
TAGS: PFOR, MO, CG, (HASSAN, II)
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5d4eb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009